

Arshad, S.H., Matthews, S., Gant, C., and Hide, D.W., "Effect of Allergen Avoidance on Development of Allergic Disorders in Infancy," The Lancet 339: 1493-1497, 1992.

In this study of 120 infants with a family history of atopy and high cord-blood concentrations of total IgE, the authors reported that parental smoking was a significant risk factor for total allergy at 12 months. The reported odds ratio was 3.97 (95% CI: 1.2-13.6) when one parent smoked and 4.72 (95% CI: 1.2-18.2) when both parents smoked. The authors suggested that "passive smoking is an important risk factor that should be addressed in any prophylactic programme."